

SEAC Specialized Programs and Services Subcommittee

Area of Focus: Transition

March 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Called to Order 5:50 p.m.

Attendees: Jessica Rudd, Maria Assusa, Billie Jo Bevan, Sharon Tropf, Shehnaz Khan, Beth Lewter (Rock Ridge HS), Lorraine Hightower, Melinda Mansfield, Nancy Walker deLlanas

Transition Services

Questions from SEAC members and community:

- Who are the transition supervisors? Teacher feedback: Every high school has a transition teacher in each. Unsure about if they have supervisor in each high school. Have two transition specialists in admin under Bridget Gorey. Sarah Conlin & Jenna Ardnt
- CAST & SEARCH: how many spots are available? Teacher feedback: SEARCH has 10 seats, CAST serves 6 high schools. Applications were due today (3/1/21) at 4:00PM
- What other opportunities are available for students in transition programs? Teacher feedback: ACHIEVE, sort of pre-CAST program. Push them out in workplace skills, and independent living skills. Started last year. Within the high schools they use a lot of Unique Learning Curriculum, have badges, clock in, two block of each day.

Important Event: “When the Bus Stops Coming” is in April

Other Players in Transition (During High School Years):

- When does DARS (Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services) come to IEP meeting. DARS counselors, Pre Employment Transition Services application that DARS would come into the high schools to help with employment opportunity. Should be a DARS counselors in each high school Kathleen Shifflet is the POC.
- Community Services Board (CSB) – The POC is John Hudson. He is the transition support coordinator. There’s a lengthy waitlist for these opportunities.

Importance of age 14 and Process:

- Transition Breakdown in IEP: Training, Independent Living, Education, & Employment
- Coordinated Activities should change year after year.
- First Transition Meeting with student: Usually an in-person meeting, can be with parent or without parent
- Classes are separate from transition program. Ex: Student identify classes at MATA and supervisor send links.

SEAC Identified Concerns: Parent feedback is they don’t understand the passing grade, reduced the score for students with disabilities in SOLs. In MATA, there’s not the same considerations to enter these programs. Is there another way they can show content knowledge?

SEAC Recommendations: If the child is non verbal it would be best to have guidance across schools.

Teacher identified Best Practices: Every transition meeting in the Middle school level (8th grade level), transition teacher goes to explain what opportunities arise. Also, Dean was involved. Have cluster meetings with families and have special speakers, with DARS and CSB

SEAC requests feedback: Transition testing assessments. What happened to John Champe Pilot. What qualifies are some of the qualifiers for CAST & SEARCH.

Specialized Services

SEAC Identified Concerns: What is the status of reading specialists. How many, what schools, programs they are using. Why schools are using PALS and DRA to qualify children in normative range and strategies to overcome this obstacle.

Concerns for Recent presentation from Department of Instruction: Balanced Literacy. Should be preventative. Seeing evaluations with issues in dyslexia, using 3 queing system

SEAC requests the following: Update from Jennifer Sisano & Beth Robinson. Having OHI and won't get specialized services. House Bill 410 became VA Code July 2020. Where they stand with screening. Set up a meeting

Continued Concerns with Strategies by LCPS: Structured Literacy is only for word decoding. Teaching context clues and pictures isn't supported by science. Balanced Literacy background

Important Event: April 7, 2021 Instructional Practice: Science of Reading & Equity by Dr. Solari

SEAC Action Items:

- Lorraine Hightower reaching out to LCPS POC, Jennifer Sisano, for a coordinated meeting to SEAC subcommittee regarding status of reading updates from previous commitments.
- Billie Jo Bevan reaching out to LCPS POC, Bridget Gorey, for specific questions regarding transition.

Adjourned: 7:28PM